



HUNTING TRAILS

CARTRIDGES & ARROWS



*Newsletter for the Missouri Department of Conservation's
Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, & Shooting Programs*

Volume 1, Issue 5

"Over 1 Million Served"

2nd Quarter 2009

2008 Missouri HE/BHE Instructor of the Year Award Winners



Conservation Commission Chairman "Chip" McGeehan presents the 2008 Volunteer Instructor of the Year Award to Instructor Mark Burns and his wife Diane at the Commission's meeting in Jefferson City.

Mr. Mark Burns from the St. Louis Region has been giving of his time to reach out to hunters for over 14 years as a volunteer instructor. Mark has taken on new opportunities and roles as MDC's programs have evolved such as being a Hunter Education Instructor and a Volunteer Bowhunter Education Instructor and one of our new Online Hunter Education Field Day Instructors. In 2008 Mark certified 203 students through five traditional courses and certified another 32 Online Students through two field days.

A trained gunsmith, Mark has been able to accumulate many of his own unique training aids to enhance the classroom experience of his students. He regularly uses his own guns to demonstrate what actions and firearm types new hunters may come across out in the community and has constructed his own firearm racks and other equipment.

A role model, Mark is called upon to help train and benchmark classroom presentations for new instructors in the St. Louis Region and mentored two new instructors this past year. Mark maintains a close relationship with his local Union Parks Department and Fire Department where he holds five to six courses per year for Franklin County.



2008 Conservation Agent Instructor of the Year Award winner Jeff Scott receives his award from state coordinator Tony Legg in front of his fellow agents at the Department's Protection Division Conference.

Agent Jeff Scott takes care of the two busiest and most populated counties in our Southeast Region. His ability to present skills and incorporate his experiences from the field into teachable moments are learning opportunities for students and instructors alike.

On top of his normal duties as an agent and Hunter Education instructor, Agent Scott has stepped forward to expand other opportunities to work with the public. He is our only agent Bowhunter Education instructor in the Southeast Region, not only holding classes in Bowhunting Education, but stepping forward to participate in other archery events in the region and as a Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) for our MDC-sponsored Missouri's National Archery in the Schools Program (Mo NASP).

Instrumental in other department programs and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Jeff coordinates and assists with our Discover Nature – Women programs, NWTf Jakes Day for youth and NWTf Women in the Outdoors program. Jeff also works with church groups around the area incorporating archery and shooting sports as a method to reach out to non-traditional groups.

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Coordinator's Corner

Hunter Education & Range Coordinator
Tony L. Legg
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Where did the first quarter of the year go? I cannot believe we are already into April and here comes turkey season (of course, my most favorite season). But since January, I have been so busy and having such a good time it has just passed too fast.

I really had a great time being able to meet with so many of you at the banquets these past few months. And this year was bigger and better than ever. We had more than 850 folks attend this year's regional banquets, that's over 200 more folks getting out for some great food and wonderful camaraderie. Asst. Director Ripperger, Lorna and Patti all had great times with you at the banquets they could attend and got some great ideas and feedback. Other than me getting long winded (as always) and stepping on my tongue a few times, I loved'em all. With all the ones I attended and so many great meals (and you all know I like to eat), I am continually being asked where was the best food? I have to give the food award this year to the Poplar Bluff instructors and DeeDee Dockins. Those BBQ ribs were awesome folks, not that anyone else's meals were not great.

Besides the meals, I got some great feedback, wonderful ideas and just some really informative comments from the instructors, spouses and staff around the state. It does us all good to get out and see the dedication you all have for something you are passionate about. Wow, and the support you instructors get from your spouses and the understanding of the importance of what you do is fantastic.

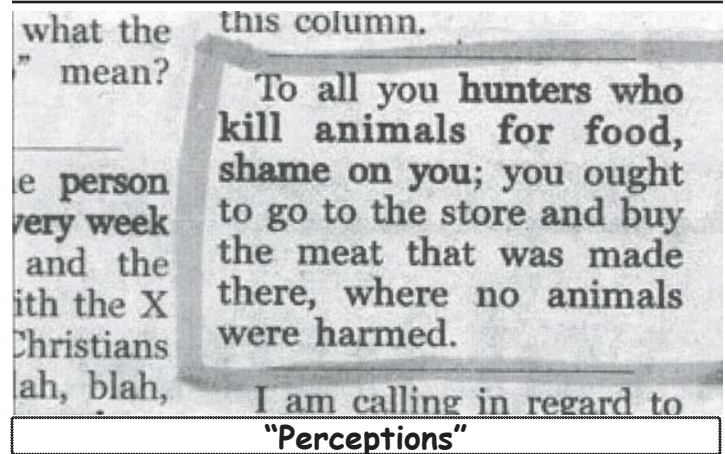
Tim, Lorna, Patti and I also had a great time at the MHIEA conference in Columbia. We saw some dear friends and received a lot of good feedback and info. If you didn't make it, you missed a really informative event. Have to give it to Paul for outbidding me on the turkey calls though. Tough battle my friend.

Things are moving forward, but I want to take another quick look back. Unless someone is still holding onto the paperwork of a class or two, in 2008 you instructors held 1,021 HE & BHE classes and certified 26,378 new hunters across the state. So here's a big SHOUT OUT to all instructors and what you accomplished in 2008.

Now we have a lot coming up this quarter. One of the first big items is the annual IHEA Convention in Canada, then the State High School Trap Shooting event at Linn Creek, plus turkey season, youth clinics and hunts, and all the normal classes and field days. Now days, nothing ever slows down, its all year-round events and demands. At the end of this quarter you should be receiving your new HE Instructor Lesson Plans and a copy of the new Student

Manual that will be in use starting July 1st. So be looking for them in June. In the mean time, those active instructors that attended the banquets will be receiving their attendance gift/back pack in the mail soon. Also, because so many have asked about the Hunter Starter Kits that go out to every HE/BHE graduate, we are going to send one to each instructor so you can see what is in them. Please take them to your classes and show your students what they can expect to receive.

So everyone, please stay safe during the turkey season and practice what we preach. I want you all in the classrooms at the end of the season uninjured and successful.



New State Fair HE/BHE Coordinators Announced

This year will see the start of new efforts in organizing and running the state fair hunter and bowhunter education booth. Longtime and dedicated coordinator Jim Ragland stepped down last year leaving a void that will be hard to fill. Applications and nominations were taken to fill these large shoes. We have selected two of our outstanding state instructors to take on this challenge: from the Southwest Region, Mr. Stan O'Daniel, and from the Kansas City Region, Mr. Leroy Bishop. Both of these dedicated individuals have agreed to take on the tasks of organizing volunteers into shifts, getting materials for handout, parking passes, tickets and just a host of things it takes to put on a large event such as this.

They are ready to start taking applications for some of you to step up and volunteer for this year's state fair, August 13th – 23rd. Volunteers receive free all-day parking passes and entry to the fair, a special shirt to wear at the booth, and credit for green sheet hours towards instructor hours. Last year was a fantastic and everyone had a really great time. To get more info or to sign up, contact information for our two new coordinators is:

Stan O'Daniel
Ph 417-453-6701
Email: stano77@centrytel.net

Leroy Bishop
Ph 816-729-7631
Email: nac7402@yahoo.com



2009 Missouri State High School Trap Shooting Championship Date Set

It's that time of year again, for 800 junior high and high school teams and individuals from around the state to meet for the Missouri State High School Trap Shooting Championship at Linn Creek, Missouri. MDC is continuing its strong traditions of supporting sport shooting for the youth of our state by joining with the Missouri Trap Shooters Association and the MTA Gun Club to host this year's event.

As in the past, we are looking for help with this event. We are in need of 43 staff and volunteers to make this work and let everyone have enough breaks to take in and enjoy the whole experience. If you are interested, please contact your regional OSSs or here at Jeff City, Kevin Lohraff at 573-522-4115 ext 3294. HE/BHE volunteers do receive green sheet credit hours toward hourly instructor awards.

Depending on local budgets, if you need to come down the day before and stay overnite, local OSS maybe setting up and paying or reimbursing for rooms (check with them first). This year the pre-meeting to go over the rules and procedures will be the morning of the event. The event is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, time to be announced.

Nothing Wrong with Adding a Little Crow to your Diet

By: Officer Walt Hutton
Laclede County Conservation Agent



We didn't hurt the crows too bad but we had a good time. An occasional hunting trip among hunter education instructors helps build a little esprit d' corps and every experience adds to that data bank of information in the back of your brain that helps you teach a more interesting and memorable hunter education class. It never hurts to practice a little of what you preach. I took the crows home and made some jerky out of them. Nothing wrong with eating a little crow now and again.



From left to right are Roger Marshall (pastor of the Lebanon 2nd Baptist Church), Stan O'Daniel (Laclede County Lead Volunteer Inst. Coordinator), Stan Moore (Presiding Judge, 26th Circuit) and Laclede County Agent Walt Hutton.

Meramec Valley Strutters Hunting and Fishing Clinic Held at Blue Springs Resort

By: Officer Tim Tallent
Crawford County Conservation Agent



On September 13, 2008 the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Meramec Valley Strutters conducted a Youth Hunting and Fishing Clinic in Crawford County. Twenty-two youth participants between the ages of 11-15, along with a parent or adult companion, attended the event. Blue Springs Resort hosted the event free of charge.

Activities included: archery and archery skills events, fishing strategies and fishing skills event, turkey hunting strategies and turkey calling presentation, deer hunting strategies and deer hunting presentation, wildlife foot plots presentation, taxidermy presentation, wildlife calls

presentation, trapping strategies and trapping skills presentation, and hunter safety. All guest speakers did a wonderful job.

Each youth participant received an event prize package worth approximately \$75. These prize packages were donated by the event's many sponsors and included hunting and fishing related gear. Grand prize donations included: a Marlin .22 rifle, Remington youth model 20 gauge shotgun, Savage .22 rifle, Moutrie 4.0 game camera, Hoyt bow package, Summit two-person ladder stand and a free taxidermy mount from True-Life Taxidermy. The event sponsors donated \$3,000 in prizes. Food sponsors donated breakfast, lunch and snacks for everyone attending the event.

Special thanks to the event sponsors, event volunteers, volunteer hunter education instructors, department employees and guest speakers that gave their time, donations and food.

It Happened To Me!!!



Oh Deer!

*By Ramona Huckstep
Central Region Hunter Education Instructor*

Apparently, a white-tailed deer did not get the e-mail that Jefferson City state office buildings were closed on Jan. 12 for the Governor's inauguration. A deer entered the Missouri Department of Natural Resources building at 1730



E. Elm St. via a glass window around two in the afternoon. After repeated attempts by staff to shoo the deer out of the building failed, the deer took up sanctuary in one of the offices.

The deer was finally subdued after Jefferson City Animal Control applied four tranquilizer darts. Conservation Agent P.J. Masek was present to provide support and assistance. Three hours after the incident started, the deer was sedated



and removed from the building where it promptly awoke and walked back into the nearby woods.

Who says nothing exciting happens at work?

Never the Smart Ones

*By: Officer Quenten Fronterhouse
Taney County Conservation Agent*



I don't have a bunch of stories to tell, but the ones I have are pretty funny. One very cold morning I was sitting near a vehicle waiting for a guy to return when he suddenly popped out of the woods. He walked to his truck all bundled up from head to toe and stuffed himself in his truck and started to leave. I walked up to the truck and asked the guy for his permit and if he had any luck.

The guy said yes "I got a permit and no I didn't get anything." He said "I shot at one and missed it and that was it." He then pried himself out of his truck and took his hat off, took his overalls off and took his jacket off, but left his huge snow gloves on. He then reached into his back pocket and messed around for 10 minutes trying to get his wallet out with those huge gloves on. He finally got his wallet out and then spent 10 more minutes trying to get his deer permit out of his wallet with those huge snow gloves on.

In the meantime I was just laughing to myself. I couldn't take it anymore so I asked again, are you "Sure" you didn't shoot a deer this morning. He said "Nope" again very quickly. I said why don't you take those gloves off so you can get that permit out of your wallet. He just ignored my advice and finally ripped the permit from his wallet and handed it to me. I said why don't you go ahead and take those gloves off so I can take a look at your hands. The individual took off the gloves and was, I guess you could say "caught red handed." He walked me to a small doe that he had shot that morning that he said he "intended to tag." He made the statement that he didn't know why the department cared if it was tagged or not. I said "Well the point is that you were not honest with me when I asked you if you shot a deer or not." He stopped and thought for a second and said, "Well I guess you got me there"

On another contact, I noticed two guys under a carport with their Halogen work lights shining into the back of their truck, which was backed up under the carport. I figured they were probably either looking at or cleaning a deer, so I thought I better take a look also. When I pulled up in the driveway, the guys stood up from behind the truck and looked at me with deer-in-the-head-light looks on their faces, looked at each other, did a little dance and ran inside the house. I got out of the truck and made my way to the house, passing by an untagged buck in the back of the truck, just in time to have the door slammed right in my face as I started to knock on it.

Next to the door was a screen window which was open. I heard one of the guys yell to another person in the house, "Tell him there is no one here." I yelled back, "I am a Conservation Agent and I know that you are here, I just saw you run inside the house when I pulled up. Come to the door because I need to talk to you for a minute." Again I heard

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one of the men in a softer voice, "Just tell him we are not here." I guess I should have just left since no one was home!!!! But I didn't.

Instead, I looked at the window again just in time to see the two men running in circles like they were playing Ring Around the Rosy or whatever that game is, looking at each other saying, "What should we do, what should we do?????" I hollered through the window, "Come outside and talk to me for a minute, that's what you should do!" Well they didn't come out. Instead one of the guys sent his fiancé to the door and had her ask if she could help me. I said "Yes, I need to talk to those two guys that ran inside the house when I pulled up." She asked "What is the about." I said, "It's about this untagged deer that is in the back of this pickup." She said well, "They are in the bathroom; you are going to have to come back later."

I said, "Look lady, I can see them standing right there in the window. Tell them to come out here, because I need to talk to them." She said "I will be right back." A few minutes later the two men came to the door and had towels to dry off with like they had just gotten out of the shower or something. I guess they were hoping if they got all the blood off of their hands that I wouldn't notice the big untagged buck in the back of the truck in the carport that I was standing next to. Anyway, come to find out, the two guys had been hunting without permits and had not tagged or checked the buck in the back of their truck.

When I wrote the guys their-tickets, I told one guy to come to my truck and have a seat. I might mention that there was my truck with the lights on and spotlight on, their truck and a small car in the drive way of their house with no lights on. I was walking him to the truck when he stopped and stood by the small car on the passenger side door. I said, "What are you doing." He said "Waiting for you to open the door." I said "For what?" He said, "Oh wait, that's my car. I thought it looked familiar and was wondering why you were driving such small cars these days." I said, "No not yet anyways, mine is the one that is running with the lights on." I guess I can only catch the stupid ones!!!!

MHEIA Announces New Fund Raiser

The Missouri Hunter Education Instructor's Association (MHEIA) is holding a gun-a-month raffle for 13 firearms. Only 1,000 tickets are printed and you will receive one for each \$20 donated. First, earlybird drawing will take place at their April 19th meeting at the Columbia Bass Pro Shop. Winning tickets go back in the hopper for all future drawings giving you a chance to win more than one of the firearms or all 13. Drawings will be held at each MHEIA quarterly meeting and winners announced. For more information or to get your tickets contact your MHEIA regional director or Association President Frank Powers at president@mohuntered.com.



Because You Asked?

I have enough award hours in 2008. Why did I not receive an award for those hours at our last banquet?

Great question. The hour awards presented at most of the recent regional banquets were for those earned through December 2007. If you had an award coming for 2007 and you did not receive it there's good chance it was due to human error in looking through the data. Yes we make mistakes.

After the year ends and all paperwork is processed and a cutoff for getting course reports and green volunteer sheets in is established, we tally and verify a list of those awards earned for the year 2007. Awards that do not have choices associated with them, i.e. mugs, thermos, briefcase, etc. are ordered. For those awards that the instructors have choices, i.e. statues, prints, etc., packets are put together and sent to the OSS's to get with these instructors and get their selection. These selections are returned and the orders are placed. Once any prints are received they are framed. The 1,000-hour shotguns had to be bid out, then once received, all ATF paperwork must be submitted by the receiving instructor for NICS check. Once the NICS check is completed and approved, the firearms are sent off for laser engraving and the metal achievement card made.

Sometime from the middle to the end of 2008 all the 2007 awards are in, ready and sent to the instructor's OSS for presentation at their next banquet. In many regions their banquets were held between December and February 2008/9. In short, the awards presented at your banquet were for points earned through 2007 even though the banquet for their presentation may have been in 2009. At your region's next banquet (maybe in January 2010), presentations of awards for 2008 will be made. If banquets are held before the awards are ready, it could be the following year or another venue where the region makes the presentation.

So if anyone contacts Maggie or me for their points, we are giving out the current points earned to the day you call, not the points that were earned at the end of the last award year, so do not confuse the two.



Rocky Fork Shooting Range Upgrade

Recent upgrades to the shooting range at Rocky Fork Conservation Area north of Columbia have been completed. The range was re-opened on Oct. 1st and shooters now enjoy new concrete walkways as well as new shooting benches. These new additions make the range ADA accessible for shooters in wheel chairs. In addition to the changes on the range, a shooting range attendant was hired to oversee the range during peak-use times through the firearms deer season. Mr. Lee Koester, Columbia Hunter Education Instructor, was hired to fill this position. Lee was able to assist shooters by providing appropriate targets, answering questions and reminding shooters to be safe. Lee's presence was very well received by the public as noted by all of the positive comments and email.



Beware—Yes Virginia, They are Out There

A funny, but potentially tragic story from one of our MDC staff visiting Castor River Range...yes this really happened. Keep in mind last week he approached a group throwing knives at the targets at the Apple Creek range.

"I went to check out some maintenance issues with a firing range today. I was driving the Department truck and had a digital camera with me to record the issues with the range. When I arrived at the range, there was someone firing their rifle, so I pulled into a secluded parking area, as not to disturb the gentlemen shooting. I got out of the truck and was walking toward the range when I heard the guy shoot, and then while looking down range he started shouting!

As I walked closer, I could hear shouting from down the range from the target areas. Sure enough, he put in another round and shot it. At this point, I realized, there was someone at the targets, while this guy was shooting.

I fumbled madly trying to get my camera on mpeg mode. I had to catch this. Booom! He shot again and more shouting from down range. This time I could understand what was being said. "Where did I hit?" asked the shooter. "Up and to the left," yelled the down range spotter. Sure as stuffing, there was a guy down range with his back to the shooter and me, looking at the target. The shooter was trying to load another round and the gun jammed. He was working trying to get the shell out while the guy down range was looking at the target. I was trying like heck to get my camera to mpeg mode to record the next shot, or murder. Sure enough, he got the gun loaded, took aim, the guy down range walked off the range 30 feet, and BOOOOM! "Where did I hit?" the shooter yelled.

I could not believe what I had just seen. I asked how they were doing, just to introduce my presence. Nervous, the shooter started to introduce himself and start a meaningless conversation with me, as to warn the guy downrange of my presence. The guy down range was still looking at the target. When he turned around and saw me, he immediately came our direction.

They both wanted to know what I was going to shoot. I was only standing there with a camera. I said, "Nothing, I am here to take a look at maintenance issues and erosion at the range." Immediately they went to bragging on the range and the DEPARTMENT, and bla bla bla. They know they did a stupid thing and were starting to smooch up, hoping to deter embarrassment or punishment for the stupidity they had just performed. It gets better.

Upon talking to them, they got to talking about their guns. One was a .22 Hornet, and the other was a .25-06. The guys started telling me they had just bought the guns, and were sighting them in. They told me that they had bought them cheap, because the dealer forgot to write the scopes on the ticket. I said, "Awww, surely not!" just to see the ticket. Yup, these guys had just bought two guns, had them bore

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sighted and were shooting them while one stood down range to see where the shooter was hitting. I couldn't believe it. The shooter said that he was having problems "zeroing" the rifles. I looked at his shells and he had ballistic tips. I told him that the bullets may be his problem. They said that they were having a jamming problem with the guns and pulled out some of the bullets to show me the imperfections with them.

The shooter even pulled one bullet apart by hand, it was of such poor quality. So, to sum it up. These jokers just bought two new guns that were not even sighted in, had and knew the bullets were junk and were shooting them while one guy stood downrange so he could see where the shooter was hitting! How dumb can you be!

And then and only then, did the guy that was at the targets ask me what he could do to get a job with our department. I had seen all I needed to see. He was an accident ready to happen, or be shot! I faked an emergency cell phone call, and ducked out of that picture. I left shaking my head at the actions of these jokers that I had just witnessed. Eighth grade had failed them, and I hope I never run into these guys in the woods."

If you see someone improperly using or abusing our ranges, please contact our Conservation Agents or Area Managers.



Hunter Education... Beyond The Classroom

By: Michael E. Brooks

Growing up in southwest Missouri with a father who was raised during the Great Depression and who hunted for food for basic survival gave me a little different perspective about life.

My father was the oldest of four children and was only 15 years old when my grandfather passed away. Being the man of the house, he took on the responsibility of being a provider at an early age. He and my uncle would hunt for rabbits and squirrels while going to the local country general store located in Cave Springs. There they were able to trade the rabbits and squirrels for the groceries my grandmother needed for the week and another box of .22 shells. They would then hunt their way back home, and the game they took on the return trip they ate during the week.

My father was a very hardworking, busy man. When I was about 6 years old, he and I had a fun activity we did together when he had free time. He would take me to the woods at my grandmother's house just west of the town of Willard. This was my father's version of the outdoor classroom where we would collect small samples of various tree branches. Once in a while, he would even let me use my pocket knife to cut off our newly found treasure.

We took them home where we had a piece of plywood that he had painted small squares on and labeled each of them

with the names of the indigenous species of trees. We would study and identify each one, and if it was one we needed, we wired it on the board, filling another square. On the next trip, we hunted for the ones we needed to fill each of the remaining squares on our board.

Being in the woods with him gave me the best mentoring that a child could have. I often reflect on how much differently my life would have been had I not had a father like this—a man who respected, appreciated, and understood all of nature: the animals, land, air, trees, and water that we, just as our ancestors, depend on for survival. He shared with me his close relationship with nature, stressing the important things like safety, respect and ethics.

I suppose he recognized early on that I had a strong interest in nature so he took every opportunity to encourage and cultivate that passion. Perhaps it was his way to prepare me for life from his own experiences. He taught me how to shoot a rifle and a shotgun. He taught me how to clean rabbits, squirrels, and quail. He taught me about the things in nature that sting, bite, stick, poke, poison, and chase. He taught me things like you don't eat persimmons until after the first good frost and that gooseberries are good for making pies if you use enough sugar.

He always made sure that I had plenty of .22 shells and a subscription to my favorite magazine, *Fur-Fish-Game*, both being a high priority in a young man's life. Even though money was tight, I was always able to earn a little by doing chores around the house so I could save up until I could afford to pay for that year's issue of the *Hawbaker's Trapping Supply* catalog or the newest issue of the Herter's or Cabela's sporting goods catalogs.

I often think about how he could have just as easily taken the easy way out and not taken the time to be my outdoor mentor. I often wonder what if my mentor, my father, had not been there at all. Had this been the case, I suspect that my passion for the outdoors and everything in it would not exist. I would have been forced to seek other interests, and at the time that I was growing up, there were no video games to play, and the internet was unheard of.

I now realize that I do lots of my thinking when I am outdoors—in our outdoor classroom. To think that I could have missed out on all of the magnificent experiences that I have been blessed with. I shudder to think that I might not even be enjoying the opportunity I presently have to share my passion and love of the outdoors and nature through the hunting, trapping, and shooting programs we offer at the Andy Dalton Range. I have learned that I, too, have the ability to teach and mentor people in much the same way as my father mentored me.

It is my belief that, as Hunter Education Instructors, we have an immediate duty to mentor someone in the same outdoor classroom as my father once did. Hunter Education does not have to end with the handing out of the temporary certification card and a safe hunter patch. Sadly, this is a

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choice that we all too often make. I know that I too often use the excuse that I am too busy or too tired but, then I begin thinking about my father.

What if he had always been too busy or too tired to spend his time mentoring me? I have come to realize that our life here is nothing more than a mere whisper in time, which can be gone with the next breath. We now live in a very fast-paced society where much of the outdoor classroom I enjoyed as a child is now covered with houses, concrete, and asphalt. While it will never be the same, to me it will always be my outdoor classroom.

It is never too late to begin mentoring someone in the outdoors, and contrary to what we might think, it doesn't have to be an extravagant exercise. It may be something as simple as taking some of the neighborhood families or children on a walk and teaching them the difference between a calm, happy, peaceful bird call compared to an alarm or distress call. Or perhaps it could be showing them what rabbit tracks look like in the snow or pointing out a squirrel running along, balancing on a power line and nearly falling with each step. These are things found in our modern outdoor classrooms.

After investing time as a mentor and guide to those new to the outdoors, you will earn their trust and respect. Once you have that, it is a very natural step to start mentoring them about hunting and shooting in a safe, responsible, ethical manner. You can educate them about the role hunters and trappers currently fulfill and how this all ties back to their ancestors. It would then be easy to invite your new outdoor students to join you in some other activity like sharing a meal with them using wild game as the main course or bringing them along on your next visit to the shooting range.

All of these ideas create prime mentoring opportunities where you can both introduce someone to hunter education and reinforce what we teach--the appreciation of the outdoors. I know everyone who reads this will have life experiences, just like I do. All I ask is that you take the time to whisper as loudly as you possibly can by becoming outdoor mentors and introduce as many youngsters and their families to our way of life as possible. I know that together we can make a difference in many lives and our future along with the future of conservation depends on it.

take a look at some of volunteers that have worked with us here at Lake City. One of the first people who came to mind was a gentleman I met when I started with the Department of Conservation about eight years ago. He was the first Hunter Education instructor I remember meeting at Lake City and has volunteered many hours to Hunter Education. Everyone in the Kansas City Region knows this person as "Jake." But his full name is William "Jake" Jacobe.



Jake's interest in Hunter Education started back a few years when he was "volunteered" by his daughter to take his grandson, Jeremy, to a Hunter Education class held at Maple Wood Community College one Saturday in 1991. Jake took a HED instructor application from the instructor and contacted Phil Philips, who at that time was the Kansas City's OSS. The rest is history. Jake has been a lead HED instructor at Lake City 11 years, Lake City Outdoor & Education Center and Burr Oak Woods Nature Center for seven years. Jake has been awarded several individual awards including KC Region Instructor of the Year and is in the HED Instructor Hall of Fame. He has taught 255 classes to more than 7,500 students in nine different facilities within the Kansas City region. When asked what he personally gets out of volunteering his time the past 17 years as a HED instructor, he said, "The satisfaction of seeing Missouri youths getting involved with the outdoors." In talking with Jake it is obvious that he enjoys serving as a volunteer Hunter Education instructor and enjoys the companionship of his co-instructors. The staff at Lake City Outdoor and Education Center look forward to continually working with Jake and his team of instructors for many more years.

Lake City will be having several Bow Hunter Education classes coming up in the next couple of months. The first class will be offered April, 14th through April 16th 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; and a second class will be July 18th 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Look forward to seeing at the range.



Lake City Range & Outdoor Education Center

Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Steven Elliott

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With large number of shooters, programs, and the training the staff is doing 2009 has been a complete blur for the staff. When it came time to sit down and write an article for the *Hunting Trails*, I decided to slow things down, step back and

"What was big was not the antlers, but the chance. What was full was not the meatpole but the memory of the hunt."
Aldo Leopold- Paraphrased



Henges Range & Outdoor Ed Center



Outdoor Education Center Supervisor
Jake Hindman
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For me spring means one thing – turkey season. After all, my parents did name me Jake. Although my turkey season this spring may be cut short, it will be due to a worthy cause; I guess. At least my wife would say so, since we have a baby girl due the third day of Missouri turkey season. I know, great planning. Not to make light of the situation, I am very excited about being a dad. I can see myself now, I will have a gobbler at 50 yards hung up and my cell phone will ring with my wife on the other end saying (screaming) that I have to come to the hospital. Should I take the shot? I will let you know my decision depending on how well the birds cooperate this spring. I will be hunting out of state for turkeys this year too, but I have put my annual Kansas trip off into the end of May.

I always encourage people to mentor a youth and take someone hunting, and I can't think of a better time than spring turkey season. Like deer season, we have a special youth season dedicated on April 4 and 5 this year. Make sure that you take advantage of this situation by letting a youngster hear their first gobble, or pick their first morel mushroom.

Listed below are the programs that will be offered at Henges in April, May, and June. If you are interested in attending or helping teach please let me know.

April

- 1 Discover Nature – Families: Wild Turkey Calling
- 7, 8, 9 Hunter Education
- 11 Youth .22 Rifle
- 11 Discover Nature - Families: Map, Compass and GPS
- 16, 18 Basic Handgun Part I and II
- 18 Discover Nature – Families: Basic Archery and Dutch Oven Cooking

May

- 2 Discover Nature – Women: Basic Shotgun
- 9 Youth .22 Rifle
- 14, 16 Discover Nature – Women: Basic Handgun
- 19, 20, 21 Hunter Education
- 27 Sporting Clays
- 30 Basic Trap

June

- 4 Discover Nature - Families: Basic Archery
- 8-12 Hunter Education Day Camp
- 13 Youth .22 Rifle
- 17 Shotgun Reloading
- 20 Youth Handgun
- 24 Sporting Clays

- 25, 27 Basic Handgun
- 27 Basic Shotgun
- 29, 30, 1 Youth Trap Camp

Although you may not hear it enough, you are making a difference!



Kansas City Region, KC Metro District

Outdoor Skills Specialist
David Wyatt
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The region started off January with our annual Instructor Awards Banquet.

Division Chief Lorna Domke attended the banquet sharing in the pot-luck wild-game dinner provided by the instructors, answering instructor questions on various subjects and assisting in the presentation of instructor awards.

This year's recipients for awards were:

- Frank Powers – KC Metro Region Instructor of the Year
- David Rush – Cass County Instructor of the Year
- Frank Powers – Clay County Instructor of the Year
- Heather Warrick – Jackson County Instructor of the Year
- Kenneth Swails – Platte County Instructor of the year
- Scott Stephens – Agent Instructor of the year from Clay County
- Judy Buckbee – Inductee to KC Region Instructor Hall of Fame
- Brenda Schulz – New Comer of the Year

Other awards were presented to instructors for tenure, achievement and appreciation.



Instructor Dan Evans, an instructor that has done most of his class work in the St. Joseph Region, but now offers his expertise to the KC Region, received his shotgun and Lifetime Card.

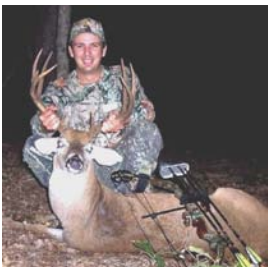
Instructors participated in several other regional events.



The KC Chapter of Safari Club International, which consistently support our regional youth hunting programs, permits our participation in their annual Hunters Expo by setting up an information booth on firearms safety and regional youth hunting programs. Instructors are present at the booth for the three days of the Expo and answer a lot of questions from attendees from around the world. Instructors easily make 1,000 contacts during this exhibit.

Instructor/Range Officer David Glaskey assisted me with a youth upland hunt for Pheasants Forever, who annually assists me with my youth upland hunt. We provided the trap range activities, assisted and coached youth in shooting and served as mentors for the hunt. They in turn will be present with dogs and assistance for my March 7 hunt.

As winter fades and spring arrives, instructors are preparing for even more activities.



Kansas City Region Clinton District

Outdoor Skills Specialist
Zeb Jordan
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Greetings.

By now you have probably heard I'm starting the Conservation Agent Academy and will be vacating this position. I would like to say thank you for working with me so diligently over the last 2 ½ years. Each one of you has contributed some valuable information, which I plan to take with me to this next adventure in my life. The truth is when I got offered the position in Clinton I really didn't know what to expect since my background was in the wildlife division of MDC.

I quickly learned I could not possibly do all that needed to be done in the hunter program and still have time to do the other job duties this position encompasses. I have said it before and I will say it again, you volunteers are invaluable to the department and hunter education. I don't have a clue where I will end up but don't be surprised if someday I end up right back in west central Missouri.

I know I will have to move away for awhile but hopefully I will be able to transfer back into this area in the future. I really like the people, hunting, and fishing this area offers and can see me here again.

Work with your local agents to get the classes scheduled and materials you need. Mark Miller out of Sedalia will be helping out as much as he can, but he has his own district to cover. The paper work and course registration will still come through the Clinton office just like before. Thanks for everything.

Until next time good luck and safe hunting.



Northwest Region St. Joe District

Outdoor Skills Specialist
Tim Miller
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I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone. I am the new Outdoor Skills Specialist in the Northwest Region. Although I am new to this position, I have been with MDC for almost eight years. I started my career with the Department at Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center as the Range Officer and was actively involved with shooting sports and hunter education. I then had the opportunity to work at the Anita Gorman Conservation Discovery Center as an Education Specialist. I have been the Outdoor Skills Specialist since January 2nd and have enjoyed every minute of it. My hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, backpacking, and floating Ozark streams with my wife Stacey, also an MDC employee, and dog Choc.

The new job started out with our Hunter Education Instructor Banquet on January 17th, which drew about 30 instructors and their spouses. Dr. Cary Chevalier was St. Joe District hunter Education Instructor of the year. Congratulations Doc. "C." We recognized Instructors Bob Derc and Bill Coverdell for their service of more than 2500 hours. And thanks to all of the instructors who make it possible to serve the public the way we do.

Also, Mike Perry (retired Outdoor Skills Specialist) and I conducted volunteer hunter education instructor training. We had a great turnout for that. As far as hunter education courses, we have them planned out and staffed for 2009 and I am looking forward to a great year. Thanks for all you do, and looking forward to working with you in the future.

Small game figures prominently in hunting initiations, particularly relative to the role it plays among established hunters. -- The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports

*"No, I'm not a good shot, but I shoot often."
--Teddy Roosevelt*



St. Louis Region

Outdoor Skills Specialists (left to right)

Scott Sarantakis, St. Louis County

scott.sarantakis@mdc.mo.gov

Dennis Cooke, St. Louis City, N. St. Louis County

dennis.cooke@mdc.mo.gov

Conrad Mallady, Crawford-Franklin-Jefferson-
Washington Counties

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Kurt Otterstein, Lincoln-St. Charles-Warren Counties

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The St. Louis Region started off the New Year with our annual Hunter Ed Instructor Awards Banquet on the night of January 9, 2009. Kurt Otterstein did a great job again this year securing a new facility at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Eureka, MO. Attendance was high with approximately 220 people coming through the doors including volunteer instructors and their families, along with MDC personnel. Director John Hoskins and O&E Field Chief Patti Redel were present for the banquet again this year.

Instructors were honored for their hard-earned hourly awards starting with the mugs right on up to the shotguns. Three instructors in the St. Louis Region surpassed their



1000 hour mark to receive their "Lifetime Achievement Award." Shotgun recipients for 2008 were Gene Bequette, Eddie Murray and William Robertson. Thanks fellas for your commitment, and for staying in the game for the "long haul."

In an effort to honor those instructors that continue to teach well beyond the shotgun, OSS Kurt Otterstein came up with a great idea to begin the "St. Louis Region – Volunteer Instructor Hall of Fame." Kurt

had a plaque made up with clean brass plates to print the names of instructors that are nominated for this award. This plaque is proudly being displayed in the St. Louis Regional



Office at the Busch Wildlife Area. The first two names on the plaque were Don Houldinghaus from Jefferson County and Ralph Redstone from St. Louis County. Congratulations

gentlemen and thank you for setting the bar high for the rest of us. Your examples are certainly inspirational.

Lastly, the three Instructors of the Year for the St. Louis Region were all present and recognized at the banquet. The Conservation Agent Instructor of the Year was Kevin Eulinger. The St. Louis Region Instructor of the Year for the metro area was Gene Bequette from Jefferson County. The Greater St. Louis Region Instructor of the Year for the rural areas was Mark Burns from Franklin County. Congratulations you guys and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the public and to the Hunter Education Program.

Shortly after the awards banquet, we got another surprise when Mark Burns was also selected as the 2008 Hunter Education Instructor of the Year for the whole state. Mark and his wife Diane Burns were invited to the MDC Commission meeting held in Jefferson City on January 29th. At the meeting, Mark was presented with a certificate and a plaque by Conservation Commissioner Chip McGeehan. Way to go Mark!

Quarterly Hunter Education Instructor Informational meetings have been scheduled for the rest of 2009 and 2010 as follows: December 3, 2009 at Busch--- February 4, 2010 at Powder Valley---July 16, 2010 at Sullivan, MO and August 5, 2010 at Forest Park. These meetings are voluntary and are designed to give instructors the opportunity to meet MDC personnel in person and receive updates on what's going on in the Hunter Ed world and to bounce ideas off of each other.

The St. Louis Regional staff wishes you a safe and productive 2009 in the classroom and in the outdoors.



Kansas City Region Sedalia District

Outdoor Skills Specialist

Mark Miller

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Greetings from the Sedalia District.

As I am writing this the snow is melting from (hopefully) the last gasp of winter. I for one am ready for spring crappie

and gobbling turkeys.

The winter quarter was a busy one. We had the HED Instructors Banquet, an Online Field Day, several classes, and a Discover Nature Women's Upland Bird Hunt.

We had 47 in attendance for the Banquet. I want to congratulate Beau Griffith of State Fair Community



College for being selected "Instructor of the Year" in the Sedalia District. Beau has been very active in the district, and is a valuable asset to the people of the community. Congratulations also go to all the instructors who received awards for service, achievement and appreciation. You are all very deserving.

The festivities included a keynote speech from agents Chris Capps and Kevin Polley who entertained the audience with stories from the field. The highlight of the evening for me was my surprise birthday celebration. Imagine if you will; 49 flaming cup cakes and the whole room in perfect



harmony singing happy birthday. I also received several gifts, that I am happy to say, I have no need for at this time.

On March 1st, nine ladies braved the snow and the cold to attend the Discover Nature Women's Upland Bird Hunt at Hertzog's Hunting Preserve. The event included a lesson on upland bird habitat, shooting instruction, and a hunt for Chucker. Although the conditions were very tough, most of the ladies successfully harvested some birds, and everyone had a great time.

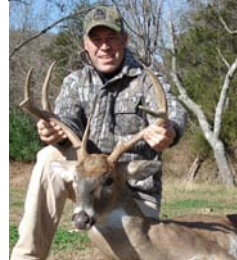
As many of you know, Zeb Jordan, Outdoor Skills Specialist at Clinton, was accepted to the Agent Academy. In the interim, I will be helping out in the Clinton District. If you are in that area, and need any assistance or information please feel free to contact me. I also hope you'll join me in wishing Zeb good luck in his future as a Conservation Agent. As always, hunt safe!



Southwest Region

Outdoor Skills Specialists

Jean Mayer - Cedar, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, Newton, Barry and McDonald Counties
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Greg Collier - Hickory, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Greene, Webster, Christian, Stone and Taney Counties
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By now many of you have already heard the news of two tragic unrelated firearm incidents that occurred in Southwest Missouri this past January.

The first occurred when two young men were horse-playing with a loaded gun while squirrel hunting. The second occurred when a man attempted to traverse a fence with a loaded gun. The news of these two incidents has left our hunter education instructors and Missouri Department of Conservation staff in shock and deeply saddened. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and families of both victims.

Because these types of incidents are preventable, please renew your commitment to stress the importance of following the Primary Safety Rules for Firearms Hunting. Share them with the people you hunt with as well as your students.

The rules are as follows:

- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Always 100% positively identify your target, and what is beyond before firing.
- Always keep your safety on until ready to shoot.
- Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

Additional rules that apply to the incidents mentioned above are:

- Always make sure firearms are unloaded and keep the action open except when in the field while actually hunting or preparing to shoot.
- Be sure your firearm is safe to operate and know how to safely operate it.
- When crossing a fence alone, unload your firearm, place it under the fence so that it is pointing away from you both before and after you cross.
- Never horseplay with firearms.

You recently received the 2008 Annual Hunting Incident Summary. Please use this latest edition to highlight one of the safest years of hunting recorded in Missouri.

Many thanks to all of our instructors in the SW Region for sending us their thoughts and comments on the new procedures related to registering your hunter education

classes as well as ordering your materials. We appreciate your time and dedication to the program.

For those of you that may have missed the letter, we are now requiring pre-registration of classes as well as a complete roster being presented prior to filling your request for materials. If you have any questions, please contact the Southwest Regional Office at (417)895-6880.

Mark your calendar now for September 27th! This is the date for the 2009 Southwest Region Hunter Education Volunteer Banquet. The location for the event will be the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center, Bois D' Arc, Missouri. Last year was a great time and this year will include more of the same...shooting, eating and awards! Please plan now to attend and keep in mind that families are welcome.

In addition to hunter education, there are many additional volunteer opportunities available in the Southwest Region this year. Andy Dalton Range Supervisor Mike Brooks was kind enough to provide a list of upcoming events.

Mike may be contacted at Michael.Brooks@MDC.mo.gov. Please contact him if you plan to volunteer for any of the events listed below. Keep in mind that these programs qualify for Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor Program Support ("Green Sheet"), and your volunteer hours recorded on this form must be submitted to your outdoor skills specialist within 30 days of the event you assisted with.

Please Note: Beginning April 16 through September 10, the Dalton Range will be open late on Thursday evenings.

- March 27, 28, and 29 – National Muzzleloading Rifle Association Territorial Shotgun Shoot
- April 11, 2009 – Southwest Regional FFA Trap Shoot
- April 25, 2009 – State High School Trap Shoot @ Linn Creek
- May 2 and 3 – NWTF Wheelin Sportsmen Spring Turkey Hunt
- May 9 – Basic Shotgun Shooting Clinic
- May 16 – Discover Nature Families Fishing Extravaganza
- May 16 – Basic Handgun Shooting Clinic
- May 30 – Discover Nature Women's Basic Shotgun Shooting Clinic
- June 6 – Discover Nature Women's Day at The Range Regional Event
- June 13 – NWTF / Wheelin Sportsmen Day at the Range Volunteer Training
- June 20 - NWTF / Wheelin Sportsmen Day at the Range Event
- June 27 – Basic Shotgun Shooting Clinic
- July 11 – Basic Shotgun Shooting Clinic
- July 11 – Antler Scoring Workshop
- July 25 – Bow Hunter's Education Program

Despite the mixed perceptions of hunter behavior, most Americans agree that hunters respect living things.—The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports



Central Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist

Brian Flowers

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Hunter Education Banquet - A big thank you to all of those who attended the Central Region Instructor Banquet on January 13th in Jefferson City. We had our largest turn out to date with more than 100 volunteers, staff and family members. If you missed this year's event, please don't miss next year's as it will be bigger and better than ever.

Award Winners - Congratulations to our Annual Hunter Education Instructor & Agent Instructor of the Year 2008. In the category of Agent Instructor of the Year, Jerid Wilkinson from Audrain County was chosen. Jerid is very active in teaching hunter education, including acting as Chief Instructor for many classes in Audrain County. Jerid also does a very good job in supervising all of his volunteer staff in Audrain County. Jerid examines where classes should be taught and uses all of his resources to meet the growing public demand for hunter education.

In the category of Volunteer Instructor of the Year, Mr. Jim Smith from Callaway County was chosen and he is an outstanding volunteer instructor in many ways. Jim is not afraid of hard work, whether it's acting as chief instructor of many classes, teaching kids at the Missouri School for the Deaf or recruiting a corps of volunteers in Callaway to assist him. He has given 110% since becoming an instructor.

I look forward to working with Jerid and Jim both to promote hunter education and to serve the public in the upcoming year.

Youth Hunts - Several events have taken place recently in Central Region. On Saturday, February 21st, MDC staff and volunteers with the Missouri Outdoor Experience (MOE) hosted the annual Hunting Skills University Upland Bird hunt at Twin Lakes Sporting Club in Audrain County.



The day's events included a talk from Protection Division staff, claybird shooting and a full afternoon of hunting



pheasants. On April 3rd through the 5th we will once again host the annual Spring Youth Turkey Hunt. Five youth and their parents from the HSU program will be paired with volunteers for a fun weekend of chasing turkeys.

On-Line Hunter Education - Central Region will host on-line hunter education field days on May 9th at the Charles Green Conservation Area, July 18th at Runge Nature Center and October 17th at the Charles Green Conservation area. If you would like to assist in these events please let me know. Instructors are needed to lead the reviews and oversee the testing stations.

Shotgun Merit Badge Help Needed - Want to help out the Boy Scouts? The Great Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America will host their 10th annual Sporting Clays event on August 22nd at Midway Farms in Howard County. As part of this event a shotgun merit badge program will be held on Friday evening August 21st, with shooting to follow on Saturday August 22nd. If you would like to assist with this important and rewarding program please let me know. The Boy Scouts will be providing lunch for everyone attending.

Keep up the good work! Hunter Education in Central Region has been running smooth. Instructors and staff continue to be vigilant about submitting correct paperwork and I really appreciate the extra effort. Also, continue to monitor the use of supplies in hunter education classes. Any supplies that are not used during a hunter education class should be returned to your Conservation Agent or to the Regional Office.

Instructor Recruitment - If you know of a potential volunteer who is interested in joining our Instructor program please pass along their name to me. There are counties in Central Region that have far too few instructors and we could use some more in those areas.



Southeast Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist
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was hit with an ice storm like we have never seen before. Two of our southern counties were without power for over 3 weeks.

Luckily we had great weather and were able to come together and celebrate another great teaching year at our Hunter Education banquet in Perryville and Butler counties. Congratulations to Dave Hoff for receiving his lifetime teaching award certificate and a new shotgun.



Pictured below is Roger Slayton of Butler County with Conservation Agents John Pratt and Frank Campa, and DeeDee Dockins received recognition for being named Southeast Regional Hunter Education Instructor of the Year.



Also, the Hunter Education Agent of the Year was our own Jeff Scott from Bollinger County. Way to go Jeff!...



With spring turkey season approaching we really need to make sure we tailor our lessons and include turkey information (not in the book) and make sure our students can remain safe while in the woods. Bring different aids with you to show your students how something as trivial as drinking from a red coke can could put them in a very unsafe situation. As instructors, we need to adapt our teaching styles and include as much visualization as possible. Gone are the days that we can stand and lecture in front of our students and expect them to apply concepts to field situations. There are many resources available from the International Hunter Education Association and I encourage all of you to join the association so that you have these resources available at your fingertips.

Please make sure you check your supplies and that you have the materials you need for class well before the class starts. We are running short on class manuals so if you have left over Hunter Education books, please call me at the office so we can pick them up and use them for a late season class.

Good luck with your spring classes and take some time to get out in the woods! Better yet, take a youngster with you.



Northeast Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist
Ben Schlader
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The weather is crazy, the turkeys are strutting and the calendar is full...it must be spring! The winter was certainly a full one in the NE Region with meetings, youth hunts, and Hunter Ed and Bow Hunter Ed classes keeping everyone busy.

I'd like to recognize some of the organizations that help out a great deal with our Hunter Ed and youth program efforts. Here are just a few of the many that have provided assistance.

- Lewis County 4-H Shooting Sports. Provided lunch at Bow Hunter Ed program.
- Macon County Quail Forever. Organized and conducted very successful ladies and youth rabbit and pheasant hunts. Also provide lunch at Macon County Hunter Ed.
- NWTF. Several committees around the region have assisted with numerous projects, including funding for MO National Archery in the Schools Program and assistance at a Spring Turkey Clinic.
- Luray School Century 21 Club. Provide lunch at Clark County Hunter Ed.

- La Plata Masons. Provide lunch at Macon County Hunter Ed.

Thanks to everyone!

Reminders:

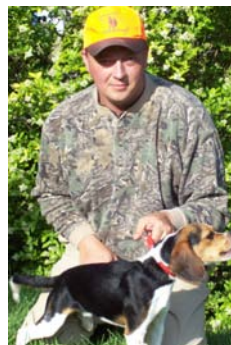
It should go without saying, but please be certain to record your name, instructor number and hours involved on the Instructor's Report. This is easy to overlook with everything else taking place at a class, but must be done to ensure that you receive credit for the class. There have been a few instructors lately whom have lost their certification due to their information not being recorded. This is especially important for those instructors that typically assist at one class per year. If their information is not recorded, they are in danger of losing their certification and their credited hours being set back to zero.

Also, don't forget about the on-line resources available to us! If you're fortunate enough to be teaching at a facility with internet access you can actually view, and project, the on-line version of the hunter ed manual. The firearm actions demonstrations are especially handy.

Upcoming events:

- May 30th. On-Line Hunter Education Field Day, Kirksville Missouri Department of Conservation
- June 12th-14th. Youth Hunter Education Challenge. United Sportsman's Club, Jefferson City.
- October 2nd-4th. CONSEP, Ted Shanks Conservation Area. This program is obviously several months away but is already filling up! Please contact me asap to reserve a spot.

As everyone knows, the 2008 hunting season was one of the safest ever in Missouri, something we should all be proud of. Unfortunately, 2009 is already off to a poor start. These tragic and avoidable incidents should serve as a reminder for all of us just how important our jobs are, particularly as we prepare for another spring turkey season. Please take the time at your classes to emphasis the rules of safe turkey hunting. In a perfect world, all new hunters would have a safe and responsible mentor to assist them on their first trips afield. In reality, that is not the case. It's a sure bet that there will be young hunters whose only chance to learn how to hunt safely will be in your classroom. Be sure that the message you convey to them is a good one.



Busch Range & Outdoor Ed Center

Outdoor Education Center Supervisor
Eric Edwards
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Greetings, I don't know about the rest of you but I'm ready to put away my winter coat and trade it in for a box call and some chalk! We've been able to pick up a few new

volunteers in this past quarter; if you have a chance to come out to the range and introduce yourself to these new folks I'm sure you'll enjoy getting to know them. As always we are looking for more volunteers so if you have some free time on your hands give me a call or send me an email. I will list a few of our programs that are coming up in the next couple of months, if any interest you, as either a instructor or student, please call and sign up early. Have a safe and memorable spring season, I hope to see you in the woods or in the classroom.

April

- 2nd & 4th Youth Turkey Hunt and Clinic
- 7th – 9th Hunter Education Class
- 11th Bow Hunter Education Class
- 16th Range Safety Officer Training for employees and volunteers

May

- 2nd Basic Archery Class
- 5th – 7th Hunter Education Class
- 10th Don't forget Mom!
- 20th & 21st Basic Trap Class

June

- 9th – 12th Boy Scouts Shooting Camp. HELP NEEDED!
- 13th MDC Volunteer Picnic
- 15th – 19th Hunter Education Day Camp. HELP NEEDED!
- 23rd – 25th Archery Day Camp

shot (have gun up and ready or on a knee) and to limit your calling.

I have had gobblers “hang up” and refuse to come an inch further, but when I can safely do so and depending upon the lay of the land and available cover, moving just a few yards and a brief one time call can bring him on in. At times, I'm afraid to move at all, and I also know there are other turkey hunters out there who like me, have let ticks “dig in” or allowed mosquitoes (seemingly on steroids) to buzz off a pint or two of “A positive” when a gobbler is within sight but just out of range. That's determination!

Once in a while I will set my sights on a particular gobbler, and have been known to run the same bird for a week or more. While it can be frustrating, it becomes a “personal” challenge to me and usually, if I'm successful, it's often an old bird with good spurs and a long beard. Many of these birds are heavier due to pellets already in 'em so I understand why they are so easily spooked.



One such old bird that I ran for four days was even packing at least two #4 lead pellets next to his breastbone. For three days, when this old long-beard flew down from the roost, after one call from me, no matter how good it was, he'd shut up for 30 minutes or more. When he gobbled again he'd be a ridge or two further away. The day I bagged him, I made no calls until 10:20 am, let him fly down from the roost and he gobbled for maybe 10-12

minutes before going on a trek that would take him almost ½ a mile from where he roosted. I just circled in front of him, and to do this took quite a bit of time for I waited until he gobbled to divulge his exact location...I did not want to get close enough to spook him. Think patience.

Finally, after being in position for roughly 20 minutes the bird gobbled one time about 60 yards away, out of sight, just under the break of the hill. I decided to risk a series of three clucks, knowing full well that the hunt might be over just like the previous three days. After the clucks, there was immediate silence as I strained my eyes to catch a glimpse of movement or hear leaves crunching. For 20 minutes I sat as patiently as I could, moving nothing but my eyes from side to side, trying to quiet my pounding heart and breathing shallow and often so as not to sound like a steam engine huffing and puffing.

I have had in the past, old wary birds circle in behind me and I decided to turn slightly to my left and even swung my gun around to anticipate such an action. Luck was with me, for had I moved just a few seconds later, the bird would have spotted me, and he would have been even wiser and my walk back to the truck would have been far longer. The way it was, about 15-20 seconds after I moved, I caught a glimpse



Ozark Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist

Larry Lindeman

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Over the years I have collected some first-hand tidbits of turkey hunting information that may either aid or hinder a turkey hunter. I'd like to begin by saying I have found that adult gobblers are just like people, they have different personalities, habits, some seem to be more intelligent, while I've found some are more cautious than others (especially those that are packing pellets from a previous encounter with an unsuccessful hunter).

I will agree with most experts that far too many people wear out their calls by calling too often or offering a call at the wrong time. Please understand, I cannot argue with anyone else's success as what works for one bird may be the wrong thing to do for another. I am not an expert caller by any means. I also feel that by calling too much, a gobbler with a keen ear can discern that as well. My advice would suggest for one to be patient, listen, anticipate, be ready for a

of black moving from side to side on each side of a large post oak's trunk. Sure enough, he'd come in from the back side to check out the clucks and I was hoping for a shot. The post oak was about 20 yards away, and he stopped behind it, and proceeded to poke out his head for a peek...unfortunately, my gun was resting across my left knee as I was attempting to be able to cover him should he have moved straight in from his original position. Now, the moment was at hand

a helping hand.

Northwest Region

Linn County

Kirby Asher - HE

Central Region

Cole County

Diane Prenger - HE

Ozark Region

Pulaski County

Terry Kaas - HE

Southwest Region

Dade County

Linda Du Brul - BHE & HE



with all sorts of ways I could screw this up racing through my head, I had to swing my gun into position for I knew this bird wasn't going to hang around for very long. Bringing the shotgun up didn't take long, but instantly, the wise old bird snapped his head back behind the oak. In the past, I have had birds do this to me, take a tree, turn and run off, while some even go airborne without presenting a shot due to the built in barrier, but, fortunately for me, this bird make one last, fatal mistake, for whatever reason, he just had to see one more time what was at the base of the tree where I was positioned...I was lucky for that time, I was ready.

That morning, I did enjoy that walk back to my truck and the chase of that particular bird I have replayed in my mind time and time again.

Man, I love those soft clucks...sometimes they work when nothing else will.

Have fun, be safe and enjoy this year's spring gobbler season, and Keep 'em pointed in a safe direction.

Our New Instructors for Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education Courses.

Welcome New Instructors!

These new instructors have all completed their training, classroom certification and background checks (Dec through Feb) and are ready to teach. So all you others out there be the great mentors we know you are. Get with your OSS and make contact with these folks and get them involved now. If you recognize any of these folks who might live near your, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend

News Tidbits

From National Shooting Sports Foundation Bullet Points

Full articles can be found at: <http://www.nssf.org/>

EXCISE TAXES RAISE \$336 MILLION FOR WILDLIFE

... When a target shooter purchases a box of ammunition or a hunter a new deer rifle, they are contributing to a system that has been responsible for supporting healthy wildlife populations in America for the last 70 years. These contributions, in the form excise taxes paid on sporting firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, benefit every state and amount to a surprisingly large number: nearly \$336 million for 2009, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "The firearms and ammunition industry is proud to play a roll in collecting, managing and contributing to these funds," said Steve Sanetti, president of NSSF. Sanetti hopes, however, that Congress will correct an inequity in the way the excise taxes are currently paid by industry, with the result that even more funds marked for conservation would be collected.

BANQUET TO BENEFIT SCHOOL SHOOTING TEAMS IN MISSOURI . . .

The inaugural Scholastic Shooting Trust Fund banquet to benefit school shooting teams in central Missouri is planned for Sept. 17 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia. Glenn Chambers, president of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and Mary Ann Gates, of Prairie Grove Shooting Sports, are co-chairing the event. "We look forward to starting something that will have a permanent impact on school shooting sports here in central Missouri," said Chambers. Contact Curt Morgret for more information. The Scholastic Shooting Trust was formed to provide funding for shooting sports education in traditional public and private high schools, colleges and universities.

MOSSBERG, BLACKPOWDER PRODUCTS INC.

SUPPORT YSSA EFFORTS . . . The Youth Shooting Sports Alliance (YSSA) has announced that O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., has generously continued its support of priority youth shooting sports programs by donating 12- and 20-gauge

shotguns to Boy Scouts and 4-H shooting sports programs that were among those identified in YSSA's National Youth Shooting Sports Program Needs Assessment. YSSA also announced that Blackpowder Products Inc. (BPI) enthusiastically answered a request to provide muzzleloading rifles and accessories in support of the shooting sports program offered by the Heart of Virginia Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Learn more about YSSA at www.youthshootingsa.com.

VIDEO: 'IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY ANIMALS YOU CAN SAVE WITH A RIFLE' . . . A video produced by Versus that debuted during NSSF's State of the Industry Dinner at the 2009 SHOT Show effectively captures the positive and important role sportsmen and women play in protecting wildlife and wild places. It's a tribute to the American sportsman and a great reminder of why we all should be proud to call ourselves hunters. <http://www.nssf.org/video/versus.cfm>

OLYMPIC CHAMPION RHODE REUNITED WITH STOLEN SHOTGUN . . . Two-time Olympic gold medalist shooter Kim Rhode has been reunited with her prized, custom-made Perazzi shotgun that had been stolen from her pickup truck in September. The alleged thief was captured during a parole check. Rhode says that except for the Olympic and World Cup stickers that had been removed from the gun, and a little bit of rust, the shotgun, valued at \$35,000, is in perfect condition. The Outdoor Wire reports that Rhode holds no ill will toward the thief. "There's always hope he can be rehabilitated," she said.

WINCHESTER AMMO SALES UP 18 PERCENT . . . Winchester Ammunition sales rose 18 percent in the fourth quarter compared to the same period a year ago. Clayton, Mo.-based Olin Corp., owner of Winchester, said ammunition division sales were \$121.4 million, compared to \$102.7 million in the fourth quarter of 2007. The company said the increase reflects a combination of higher selling prices and improved commercial and law enforcement volumes.

NEW GUIDE TO HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ON WILDLIFE REFUGES . . . The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has posted on its Web site, <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/hunting/> in PDF format, the first comprehensive guide to hunting opportunities throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System. More than 300 hunting programs are covered. The bulk of the guide is organized by state. The guide highlights species that can be hunted and offers directions to the refuges.

HIGH SCHOOL DEDICATES RIFLE RANGE TO FALLEN G.I. . . . Waukegan, Ill., High School emphasized that firearms can have a proper place in its offerings to its students by dedicating its renovated shooting range to the memory of 1st Lt. David Giaimo, a 1999 graduate who was killed in Iraq. Giaimo was the elected the high school's rifle team captain while a junior and senior and took the state

championship both years. In the current issue of The Range Report, Mark Taylor tells of how the Roanoke, Va., school district has extended its curriculum to offer shooting, and offers some advice on how ranges and clubs might attempt to introduce shooting to schools.

PA. LOWERS MINIMUM AGE FOR HUNTER ED INDEPENDENT STUDY . . . Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe announced his agency's intention to lower the minimum age for its "independent study" Hunter-Trapper Education Class to 11 years of age. When the program was initiated in Pennsylvania, in 2006, the program was limited to first-time hunters at least 17 years of age, and the minimum was lowered last September to age 14. "The concept of obtaining a license for first-time hunters by foregoing the traditional two-day or three-day course recognizes the time constraints of today's world," Roe said. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has been a leading advocate and financial supporter of efforts to innovate home-study opportunities for hunter education.

FOX NEWS REPORTS ON HUNTING BEING ON THE RISE . . . Fox News reports, "It's been a year for house hunting, job hunting, bargain hunting ... and real hunting," and then offered data on the uptick in hunting license sales across the nation. "Pennsylvania, New York, Montana, Wisconsin and Missouri are among the states reporting a rise in hunting applications," reported Fox News. A couple of reasons attributed to the increase are the allure of an inexpensive food supply and the availability of time due to unemployment and a slowed economy.

WOMEN SHOOTERS ON THE DRAMATIC INCREASE . . . Citing an NSSF news release, the Times of Trenton (N.J.) reported on the increase in women shooters, localizing its coverage by focusing on Women's Day at the Citizens Rifle and Revolver Club in Princeton. Club President Carol Katona says the annual program has become so popular, the club has to limit participation.

NRA Names New Missouri State Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) Coordinator

With the retirement of Jan Morris, Missouri State YHEC Coordinator since 1991 the NRA had some big shoes to fill. The NRA made its choice to step into those shoes, Mr. Jerrold "David" Brooks of Fair Grove, Missouri. David has previously stepped in to run local YHEC teams and the State YHEC Competition for numerous years and even taken teams to the International Competition. A Missouri Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education since 1998 in the Southwest Region's Greene county, David has long played an important role in mentoring and introducing youth to the opportunities of the outdoor sports. This year, the Missouri State Competition is set for June 12, 13 & 14 at the United Sportsman's Club in Jefferson City. If you would like to know more about YHEC or how you can help out visit <http://www.moyhec.com/>

INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS

IHEA has a central web page that lists discount offers to instructors. This webpage can be found at <http://www.ihea.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors.php>, or go to ihea.com, click the Instructors tab on the green bar, then click Special Offers For Instructors.

You don't have to be a member of IHEA (although it is encouraged) to receive a discount. All instructors qualify, but the vendor will require that they provide documentation to prove that they are a state certified HE instructor.

Username: instructor

Password: gohunt

NBEF has a central webpage that lists discount offers to instructors. This webpage can be found at <http://www.nbef.org/instructor.html> (yes, instructor is mis-spelled) or you can go to their home page at <http://www.nbef.org> and click on Instructor Section. Password is wadsworth.

G5 Quest Bowhunting Bows

The Quest QS33 and QS31 bows are both offered to NBEF Instructors at PRICING so special you will not be able to pass it up!! These bows retail around \$750... they are absolutely top of the line bows which feature Metrao Precision bow strings, a two piece wood grip, parallel limbs, and an offset riser and high performance single cam eccentrics. Go to the website www.questbowhunting.com to check out which model you want to purchase and then give the NBEF office a call at 479-649-9036. You will need your draw length, draw weight, and credit card information to place your order. These bows are shipped direct from the factory and each is made specifically to your specifications.



For pricing and more information or to purchase one of these items, contact Tim Ferguson at (270) 776-6262, Dead Eye Supply, www.saf-t-plug.com

GENESIS BOW AVAILABLE IN CAMO

The good people at Mathews, the manufacturer of the Genesis Bow, have now made a camo version available to Bowhunter Education Instructors. This is the same bow as the bow utilized for the National Archery in the Schools Program. The Genesis Bow is now available in the Hardwoods Camo pattern. Bowhunter Education Instructors have long been asking for a camo bow to use when conducting their classes and during Field Days as they strive to simulate true to life hunting scenarios. The Hardwoods Camo Genesis Bow is available for \$109.00 plus \$6.00 shipping. The bow has a 10-20 lb. adjustable pull weight (comparable to a 35 lb. recurve) and a draw length of 15-30 inches, right or left hand. The bow is also available in the colors of Wildberry, Red Cherry, Lime, Lemon, Blue Raspberry, and Orange. Also available to the instructors is the "Mini" Genesis in Black, Red, or Blue, right or left hand. Non camo bows (both sizes) are still available for \$99.00 plus \$6.00 shipping. Place your order by calling the NBEF direct at 479-649-9036. All orders require a valid credit card for purchase. NOTE: ALL BOWS ARE TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT TO BE RESOLD.

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- Wildlife is an International Resource
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"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value." — Theodore Roosevelt

Nate Harling Photo